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Modern events are not neglected. The chapter on "Diaz the despot" is more sympathetic than its title implies. The author is inclined to regard the professions of the recent revolutionists as *faits accomplis*, especially in Yucatan, but this may represent a sympathetic attempt to develop the personalities of recent leaders.

Mr. Trowbridge has given us a wonderful book of unusual interest. About a third of the volume treats of events and conditions preceding Diaz. This permits a comparatively full treatment of the situation since 1910. The author writes from a full personal knowledge of the country and with evident sympathy for recent changes, but he describes them without undue partiality. It is refreshing to note that his business experience does not lead him to favor military intervention by the United States and that he can discuss the financial expedients of Carranza without displaying undue warmth. His description of social and economic conditions is especially good. One who gives the volume careful perusal cannot fail to gain a clearer idea of existing Mexican problems.

In Mr. Gibbon's volume we encounter the familiar indictment of the enraged capitalist. The author does not attempt to be fair; he charges against Carranza all the evils that now afflict Mexico, because under a semi-industrial régime, such as Mexico has entered during the last generation, revolutionary outbreaks have become so much more disastrous than formerly. He rightly suggests that racial conditions account for much of Mexico's woe, but his statement of the relative proportions of the constituent elements is misleading, as is also his indiscriminate condemnation of the "Latinized" element. Naturally he finds nothing commendable either in the sentiments or policy of our own administration and looks for salvation, avowedly for the *peons*, only through intervention, such as England has made in Egypt. If one adds that the author is an attorney from Los Angeles, he has sufficiently indicated the *odor* that accompanies the book.

*A short history of Japan.* By Ernest Wilson Clement. (Chicago: University of Chicago press, 1916. 190 p. \$1.00)

*Modern Japan.* Social, industrial, political. By Amos S. Hershey and Susanne W. Hershey. (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill company, 1919. 382 p. \$1.50)

*Japan and world peace.* By K. K. Kawakami. (New York: Macmillan company, 1919. 196 p. \$1.50)

*The mastery of the far east.* The story of Korea's transformation and Japan's rise to supremacy in the orient. By Arthur Judson Brown. (New York: Scribner's, 1919. 671 p. \$6.00)

The title of Mr. Clement's *Short history of Japan* is accurately chosen. It would be difficult to write a more compact summary. Fifteen hun-

dred years of recorded history are condensed into one-tenth as many pages. Of these ninety-seven deal with the period before 1853 and fifty-five with the later years. In addition there is an appendix describing the physiography of the empire, and useful lists are given of emperors and shoguns, and the name period used in Japanese chronology. If one can only give a few hours to mastering the outlines of Japanese history then the present work will well repay perusal. But the time has come when Japan merits more consideration and it is to be hoped that Mr. Clement will develop this outline into a more comprehensive study.

*Modern Japan*, by Mr. Amos S. Hershey and Susanne W. Hershey, is a very helpful summary of the social, industrial, and political conditions in the empire to the most recent times. A considerable portion of the volume deals with political affairs, including a study of the government and constitution, political parties, the expansion of Japan, and her relations with China and the United States. These chapters contain much more that is of deep interest at the present moment. The chapters on social conditions include a discussion of the family in Japan, the position of women, the educational system, and the native and foreign religions. Especially valuable are the studies of the industrial order and the social and economic conditions arising from it. This is the best recent study of industrial Japan which is easily accessible. The volume is one which should be widely read in this country. And the authors have tried so faithfully to learn the facts and to present them in a fair manner that every thoughtful Japanese should welcome the criticisms which are frequently offered.

The latest contribution of the Japanese journalist, K. K. Kawakami, is entitled *Japan and world peace*. Its purpose is "to describe Japan's place in the League of Nations," and "to explain the aspirations and hopes, fears and misgivings, which Japan will entertain under the new world regime, as under the old." In the preface the author points out that the foremost problem of Japan today is the population problem, and with this is entwined the question of Japan's iron and coal supply. If Japan must keep her expanding population at home she must develop as an industrial and trading nation. To do this requires coal and iron, of which she possesses little. "Here, in a nutshell, is the condition which furnishes the underlying motives as well as the impelling power to Japan's policies, internal and foreign." The eleven chapters deal principally with Japan's part in the war and with Chinese-Japanese relations. They make interesting reading, for Mr. Kawakami is a well-informed publicist and wields a facile pen. In statements of fact his work compares very favorably with western writers on far eastern affairs,

but in matters of opinion and interpretation he naturally presents the point of view of Japan, which makes his articles of value to anyone who would understand what has happened in the far east in the past decade.

One of the worth-while books on Japan is *The mastery of the far east* by Arthur Judson Brown. It appeared with remarkable timeliness just as the news of the Korean disturbances reached this country. Mr. Brown considers the Korean peninsula "the strategic point in the mastery of the Far East," and about two-thirds of the volume deals with that country. First comes an account of old Korea and the struggle between China, Japan, and Russia for possession; other chapters deal with Japanese rule in Korea and the missionary problem there. The rest of the book deals with present conditions in Japan. The volume stands out as one of the most open-minded discussions of far eastern polities which has been offered the American reader. Mr. Brown, who has been for years the secretary of the Presbyterian board of foreign missions, has tried to get the facts and to do justice to Japan, Korea, and China in considering the many controversial questions which have arisen. And even in dealing with the missionary problems in Korea he has not allowed his calling to interfere with his sense of justice. The reviewer knows of no more accurate or saner account of conditions in Korea on the eve of the independence movement, and a perusal of Mr. Brown's chapters will enable one to understand many of the news items which have come from Korea since March.

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